

FIVE YEARS TO PUT NAVY IN CONDITION

Rear-Admiral Fiske Refers to De-
ficiency in Aircraft, Submarines
and Trained Men.

BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Expresses View as to Possibility
of Foreign Craft Dropping
Bombs on American Cities.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—Five years would be required to put the United States Navy in the highest state of efficiency to meet a hostile fleet, according to a statement to-day by Rear-Admiral Fiske, before the House Naval Committee. The admiral, who is chief of the Bureau of Operations, member of the general board and a former president of the naval institute, said the navy was deficient in aircraft, mines, scout cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and in number of trained officers and men, and had no mine sweepers.

Members of the committee were particularly interested in Admiral Fiske's view as to the possibility of foreign aircraft dropping bombs on American cities. He expressed the opinion that an attacking fleet might begin sending its airplanes on bomb-dropping trips over New York from a range of 500 or 600 miles off the coast.

One foreign navy, which was not named, the admiral said, was more efficient than the American fleet in gunnery. This, he declared, however, was so only because the American marksmen have not been given adequate opportunity for practice. In speaking of the "highest state of efficiency," the officer explained that he had in mind the state of a certain unnamed power, whose officers and men have inherited the spirit of a military nation.

SEVERAL REFERENCES

The German raid on the British coast was referred to several times, and the admiral suggested that if the British had had five or six fast submarines in the vicinity of the attacked ports, the possibility of the bombardment would have been reduced. He said that if the German cruisers passed through English mines the explanation might be that the wonderful system of spies Germany has it may have found out just where those mines were located.

He added, though, that possibly the German cruisers carried mine sweepers. The officer said that he could not attack the Panama Canal so long as the American navy controlled the sea. With the fleet defeated, however, he thought there would be no security for this, "the most vulnerable port of our possessions."

"Could you mine there as well as anywhere else and protect the mouth of the Panama Canal?" he was asked.

"Yes."

"Could you prevent a hostile fleet from coming into the canal with the defenses there now?"

The fortifications alone, he explained, would not be sufficient, "because a hostile fleet could land men a few miles away."

Under further questioning, the admiral said the European war would bring changes that no one could prophesy, and that among the possibilities was an agreement between some of the foreign nations to "let one another alone" on certain conditions, which might involve the integrity of the Canal Zone.

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, will be the final witness in the naval hearings to-morrow.

SOUTH IS PLANTING WHEAT

Tremendous Increase in Acreage Shown
in Government Estimate.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—Tremendous increases in the acreage devoted to the planting of wheat in the South were shown to-day in the Department of Agriculture's estimate of the total area sown in the United States. That amounts to 41,000,000 acres, an increase of 4,135,000 acres over the area sown last fall, and on which the record crop of 681,590,000 bushels of winter wheat was harvested this year.

The crop of winter wheat on December 1 was 8.3 per cent of a normal, almost 1 per cent lower than it was last year at this time, and 2 per cent below the ten-year average on December 1.

South Carolina's acreage was increased 200 per cent compared with the 1913 planting; North Carolina, 75 per cent; Virginia, 60 per cent, and Tennessee, 30 per cent.

In the great wheat-growing States the increase in acreage ranged from 5 to 15 per cent, except in the greatest of winter wheat States, Kansas, where a 2 per cent decrease in acreage is shown.

SCHOONERS BLOWN ASHORE

One Is Complete Wreck, but Other Is
Planted by Own Crew.

MOBILE, Ala., December 17.—Two schooners were blown ashore on Chanler Island, fifty-five miles west of Mobile Bay, on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, according to news received here to-day. The American schooner *Madeline*, from Havana to Gulfport, a three-master of 462 tons, is a complete wreck. Her captain reached Mobile to-day, the crew having been rescued by a fishing boat. The United States revenue cutter *Winnipeg*, a four-masted schooner, was blown ashore to-day to guard the wreck. The four-master schooner *Blanche C. Pendleton*, 1,263 tons register, Philadelphia and New Orleans, was floated by her own crew after being driven ashore. She is expected to reach this port Friday for repairs.

HEARINGS END FOR PRESENT

Investigation of Charges Against the
Southern Railway Has Been Terminated.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—The Senate committee investigating charges that the Southern Railway had "bottled up" the Southwest Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky coal field in the interest of its "trust," to-day adjourned until January.

Upon resuming hearings, Mark Potter, president of the Clinchfield Railway, will be allowed to cross-examine Frank C. Wright, of Bristol, Tenn., who has been on the witness stand several days.

"The Clinchfield has been lugged into these hearings by reflections on its integrity and ownership, and I want an opportunity to set the record right," Mr. Potter told the committee.

NUMBER OF KILLED INCREASED TO 143

Casualty List as Result of Ger-
man Naval Raid Grows
With Rapidity.

MORE THAN 500 WOUNDED

British Coast Patrol Ships En-
gaged Enemy During
Bombardment.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]
LONDON, December 17.—The casualty list as a result of the German naval raid on the east coast of England early yesterday morning, in which four towns were shelled, many lives lost and many of the inhabitants severely wounded, is growing with startling rapidity.

Figures to-night show that 143 persons were killed, of whom only a small percentage were combatants, and 537 have been reported wounded.

Simultaneously with the receipt of the report of casualties from West Hartlepool, where the official list has reached the figure of seventy-nine killed and 326 wounded, there came the first definite news that the German ships had been engaged by the British coast patrol ships while carrying on the bombardment.

The admiralty announced to-night, through the official press bureau, that the light cruiser *Patrol* and the torpedo-destroyer *Doon* were among the British warships that attacked the German raiders. They were heavily engaged, and came off with some casualties.

Aboard the *Patrol* four were killed and four wounded, while on the *Doon* one was killed and eleven wounded.

Confidential reports are that the German ships did not escape without suffering severe damage. Several are reported to have been struck.

ENGLISH SHIPS ATTEMPT TO INFLECT DAMAGE

Members of the crew of the destroyed *Doon* related how the two ships, with others whose identity could not be made out in the mist, struck at the Germans despite their superior strength, both in weight of guns and ships, and did their utmost to inflict damage. Gunners reported that several of their shots were good hits. Finally the fire of the German heavy guns became so terrific that the light cruisers were forced to turn away.

The light cruiser *Patrol* was laid down in 1902. She is 370 feet long and 38.5 feet beam, with a draft of 14.2 feet. Her displacement is 2,910 tons; her speed 25 knots; her armor is 2.5 inches thick on the slopes and 4 inches on the flat. She carries nine four-inch (59 calibre) guns, eight three-pounder anti-aircraft guns, and three-inch torpedo tubes above the water line. Her complement is 288 men.

The torpedo-destroyer *Doon* was laid down in 1905. She is 220 feet long, twenty-three feet on the beam, and draws eight feet. Her displacement is 545 tons, and her speed 25.8 knots. Like all the destroyers of the "B" class, she carries four 4.7-inch guns, and two eighteen-inch torpedo tubes above the water line. Her complement is seventy men.

Three ships have already been sunk by the mines and today the British admiralty closed to traffic the off-shore waters of Scarborough Head and Newcastle.

While the wounded were being landed from the British destroyers which attacked the Germans at sea, the official inquiries into the deaths that had occurred ashore were instituted.

Inquest at Hartlepool was started to-day, and it was officially announced that the inquiry into the deaths at Scarborough would open to-morrow. That at Whitby is also expected to start to-morrow.

INQUEST IN PROGRESS

HARTLEPOOL, December 17. (via London, 11:35 P. M.)—An inquest began here to-day over the bodies of seventy-nine victims of the German bombardment, which killed in Hartlepool and West Hartlepool.

In opening the court, the coroner said that never before in English history had an inquest been held under similar circumstances, and that he hoped the occasion would never occur again.

The testimony brought to light some pathetic cases. An old woman was picking up coal dropped from cars on the railway embankment when she was killed by a shell. An old man and his two daughters were starting breakfast in the kitchen when a shell killed all three.

A young woman went to the house of her aged mother, intending to conduct her to a place of safety. Entering the passageway, she stumbled across her mother's body. A shell had pierced the roof and killed her.

An elderly man, who thought the gun firing was that of British ships at practice, sat down unconcernedly to breakfast. A shell carried away the corner of his house, killing his two grandchildren.

The verdict rendered by the coroner's jury was that the deaths of the seventy-nine persons were due to bombardment of the town by an enemy, who, under the cover of a dense fog, fired shot and shell into the towns, killing many unarmed civilians.

SUBJECTED TO ATTACK

NEW YORK, December 17.—What Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, the three English towns bombed by German warships yesterday, are defended places, and, therefore, subjected to attack under the rules of war, is the substance of a statement issued here to-night by Captain Franz von Papen, military attaché of the German embassy at Washington.

The statement follows:

In reference to yesterday's bombardment of three English coast towns, Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, by the German fleet, attention is respectfully called to article 1 of the Hague convention of October 18, 1907, which says:

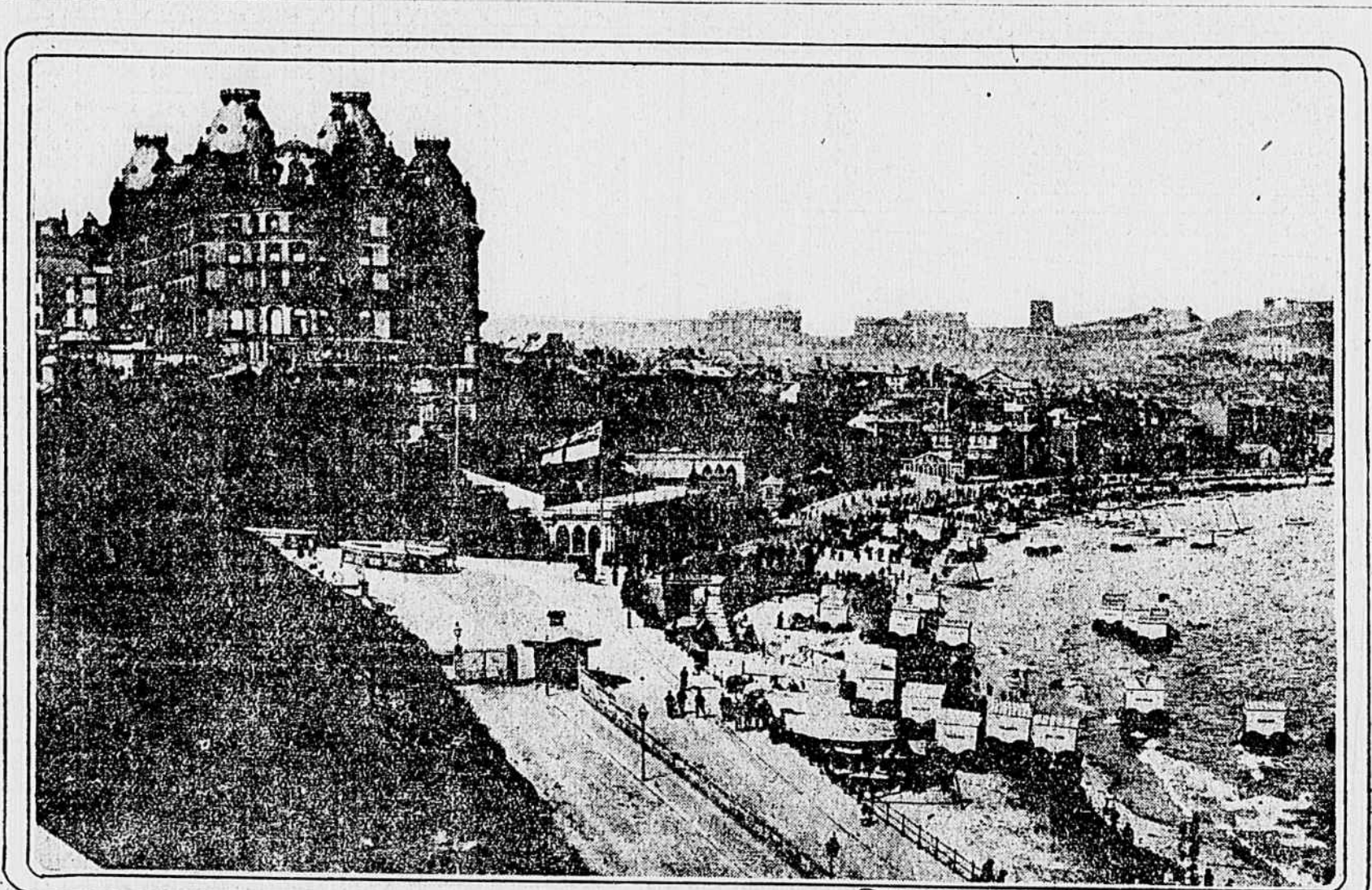
"The bombardment by naval forces of undefended ports, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings is forbidden."

"In concurrence with the report of the English official press bureau, the fact is established that Hartlepool is fortified, while Scarborough and Whitby are defended, like all other British coast places, either by regular troops, coast guns or volunteers."

"Permit me to state in addition that the bombardment of all Belgian coast places, as Ostend, Nieuport, Zeebrugge, etc., by the German-French navy did not take place because these places

Continued on Second Page.)

RUSSIANS RETIRE ON WHOLE FRONT; THREATENED ON BOTH FLANKS



A View of the Spa Grounds at Scarborough
Fashionable English watering resort on the English coast, 200 miles from London and directly opposite Kiel, the German naval base, which has been shelled by a German fleet, making a sudden dash across the North Sea.

AFFAIRS NORMAL AGAIN IN ENGLISH COAST TOWNS

Will Not Be Long Before All Marks
of Gunfire Are Re-
moved.

NO EXCITEMENT IN BRITAIN

One Effect of Bombardment Is Boom
in Recruiting, Which, It Is Pre-
dicted, Will Be Worth Two Corps
to Kitchener's Army.

LONDON, December 17 (9:55 P. M.)—Residents of the towns of Scarborough, the Hartlepoons and Whitby, which yesterday were bombed by German cruisers, resumed their ordinary occupations to-day. The only departure from the regular routine was the arrival of crowds of camera-bearing tourists, the return of those who had fled, and busy mechanics at work repairing damage done by the shells.

The Mayor of Scarborough placarded the walls with posters, advising the people to keep cool, but this hardly was necessary, for, beyond grief for the loss of friends and neighbors and the little price displayed at the auction they attracted, citizens went about their business in a natural way. It will not be long before all marks of the raid will be removed.

The attitude of the people of England is much the same as that of the bombed towns. There is no excitement, and the only effect of the bombardment is the demand that naturalized Germans and those who have not been naturalized shall be excluded from areas open to a sea attack, and a slight boom in recruiting, which had been slackening at the approach of Christmas.

WORTH TWO CORPS TO KITCHENER'S ARMY

The Right Hon. Thomas J. Mac-Namara, parliamentary secretary to the admiralty, said the German raid was worth to army corps to Kitchener's army.

It is believed that the German squadron included at least four battle cruisers of the super-Dreadnought class and two armored cruisers. The shelling of the Hartlepoons and Scarborough was simultaneous, but Whitby was visited after the warships had begun to-day into the deaths of the seventy-seven persons killed in the Hartlepoons, and to-morrow a similar inquiry will begin touching the deaths of the seventeen Scarborough victims.

There has been some naval activity on the part of the allies in other parts of the world. British ships have been bombarding the Germans along the Gulf of Saros, while the Russian Black Sea fleet has sunk a German steamer and an unidentified vessel, supposed to be a Turkish warship.

A training ship, *Beethoven*, which is being used for training purposes, would have at least 200 cadets aboard.

NO AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

House Votes to Repeal Law Providing
for It, Passed in 1905.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—The House to-day voted to repeal the law passed in 1905 providing for a five-year agricultural census, and struck from the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill the \$2,286,000 asked for to conduct it.

Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Department of Agriculture, was present, and more useful than any that could be gathered through an agricultural census. The Republicans voted solidly for repeal.

AUTO BANDIT KILLED IN DUEL WITH POLICE

Shot to Death After Sensational
Three Hours of Crime in
Cincinnati.

GETS \$13,100 FROM TWO BANKS

Officers Believe That Frank G. Hohl,
in His Wild Drives, Passed Money
Along to Confederates—Search for
Woman Accomplish.

CINCINNATI, December 17.—Frank G. Hohl, a notorious automobile bandit, was shot to death by policemen here to-day, after a sensational three hours of crime, which included daylight robberies of two Cincinnati banks, theft of an automobile, and a pistol duel with the police, resulting in wounds to one officer that are expected to prove fatal.

Thirteen thousand and one hundred dollars are missing as the result of the bank robberies. The police believe that Hohl, in his wild automobile drives, managed to pass the money along to confederates.

Shortly after 10 o'clock this morning Hohl entered the West End branch of the Provident Savings Bank and Trust Company, at Eighth and Freeman Avenue, fired two shots at Cashier Edward Hughes, scooped up \$5,000 in currency and backed through the door.

Jumping into a waiting automobile, which had been stolen, he quickly disappeared. Cashier Hughes fired after him, but the shots did not take effect.

More than an hour later the bandit entered the Liberty Banking and Savings Company Bank, at Liberty and Freeman Avenue, ten blocks away, fired two shots at Cashier George Winters, took \$5,100 in currency, ran to a automobile and again disappeared.

The shots were so close to Winters that he was powder burned, but he was uninjured.

BRUISES PAST OFFICERS, FIRING AS HE RUNS

Almost two hours after the second robbery, Harry Buckhorn, whose mother conducts an apartment house on West Ninth Street, told the police that a man answering the description of the bandit had rented a room there yesterday. Three policemen called at the room. When they knocked, the door suddenly was thrown open, and Hohl brushed past the officers, firing as he ran.

Hohl again ran to his automobile, which was standing at a near-by corner, and bade fair to again make good his escape. In rounding a corner, however, the machine crashed into a telegraph pole and was wrecked. The bandit jumped out and opened fire on the two officers, who had pursued him. In the battle that followed Hohl fell with four bullet wounds in his body. He died shortly afterward at a hospital.

Hohl was well known to the police, who claim he shot up an Altoona, Pa. bank on March 3, was arrested, and while being conveyed to the Pittsburgh jail, threw a cup of coffee in his guard's face and escaped. He was again captured, but subsequently escaped from the Hollidaysburg, Pa. jail.

He was wanted, authorities declare, for a diamond robbery in Kansas City, Mo., present. No details of the proceedings were made public, but it was unofficially stated that more encouragement was felt over trade prospects.

STEEL HEADS CONFER

Question of Wage Schedule for Com-
ing Year to Be Decided.

NEW YORK, December 17.—The presidents of the leading subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation began a two-days session here to-day. Albert H. Gray and other prominent officials of the parent company were present. No details of the proceedings were made public, but it was unofficially stated that more encouragement was felt over trade prospects.

ANOTHER EFFORT TO SAVE LIFE OF LEO M. FRANK

Attorneys File With Clerk of U. S.
District Court Petition for Writ
of Habeas Corpus.

ASKS RELEASE FROM CUSTODY

Allege That Prisoner Did Not Have
Fair and Impartial Trial, and That
Constitutional Rights Were Vi-
olated.

ATLANTA, GA., December 17.—Attorneys for Leo M. Frank, under sentence to die on January 22 for the murder here in April, 1913, of Mary Phagan, late to-day filed with the clerk of the United States District Court a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, asking the release of Frank from custody.

The petition alleges that Frank's constitutional rights were violated, and that he was convicted without due process of law, in that he was not present in court when the verdict of guilty was returned. It was further alleged that Frank did not have a fair and impartial trial, and that the State courts, by the alleged denial of his constitutional rights, lost jurisdiction in his case prior to the rendering of the verdict and the passing of sentence.

Frank's attorneys appeared before Federal Judge W. T. Newman to present the petition. Because solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey was unable to be present, Judge Newman would take no action on the matter, but said he would hear the petition next Saturday morning.

Frank's attorneys claim that if Judge Newman should deny the writ, Frank could appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and that the State would then be forced to execute the writ.

The petition recites that a "boisterous crowd" surrounded the courtroom during Frank's trial, and that whenever the State scored a point, the crowd outside "cheered and shouted, while those in the courtroom applauded in a manner audible both to the court and the jury."

"The excitement within and without the courtroom," the petition charges, "was so apparent as to cause apprehension in the mind of the court as to whether the trial could be safely continued that day, and before the case was adjourned."

On the last day of the trial, the petition charges, the trial judges conferred with two of Frank's lawyers, and referred to the probable danger of violence to Frank and his attorneys would incur if they were present when a verdict was rendered, should it be for acquittal or a dispositive judgment.

It is claimed that Frank knew nothing of this agreement, that he did not consent to being absent, and did not waive his right to be present when the verdict was announced. During the hearing of the jury, the petition alleges, the demonstrations by the crowd within and without the courtroom were so loud that the responses of the jurors were heard with difficulty ten feet away.

DANIELS TO VISIT HAWAII

Will Inspect Great Naval Station and
Dry Dock at Pearl Harbor.

WASHINGTON, December 17.—Secretary Daniels, of the navy, expects to visit the Hawaiian Islands in March or April next year, following his visit to the Panama-Pacific Exposition. He will inspect the great naval station and dry dock at Pearl Harbor, and probably will make the trip on a warship.

GERMAN SAILORS CHEER AS WATERS COVER THEM

Crew on Von Spee's Flagship Pre-
serves Formation as Doomed
Vessel Goes Down.

ALL REFUSE TO SURRENDER

Kaiser's Cruisers, Sunk Off Falkland
Islands on December 8, Taken Un-
aware by British at Time When
Neither Side Expected Encounter.

BUNOS AIRES, December 17.—The German cruisers sunk off the Falkland Islands on December 8, apparently were taken unaware by the British at a time when neither side was expecting an encounter. First detailed accounts of the battle, which reached here to-day from Puerto Gallegos, Patagonia, say the Germans were on their way to seize the Falkland Islands, British possessions, when they came unexpectedly upon a lone British warship. Other members of the British fleet, which were taking on supplies from the islands, quickly closed in, and the fate of Admiral von Spee's squadron soon was sealed.

The story of the battle was told by passengers on the British steamer *Orissa*, which arrived at Punta Arenas from Callao, Chile. They say that the Germans fought bravely to the end, even the colliers refusing to surrender. Losses of the British were placed at eight men.

It was a formidable British squadron which faced the Germans. Included in it were the battleship *Canopus*, the battle cruisers *Invincible* and *Inflexible*, and the cruisers *Kent*, *Cornwall*, *Carnarvon*, *Bristol* and *Glasgow*. The German squadron consisted of the five cruisers *Scharnhorst*, *Goeben*, *Leipzig*, *Nürnberg* and *Dresden*.

The British squadron arrived at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, on December 10 to take on supplies. The next morning the *Canopus*, guarding the entrance to the port, sighted a hostile warship. Four others quickly came into view, and were recognized as the squadron of Admiral von Spee. The German warships had left the Chilean Islands to take possession of the Falkland Islands and destroy the wireless station.

OTHER WARSHIPS RUSH TO AID OF CANOPUS

Only the *Canopus* was visible at first to the Germans, and they steamed straight at her. The *Canopus* opened fire, and the other British warships rushed to her assistance.

The *Scharnhorst*, *Goeben* and *Leipzig* formed in battle line, and the *Nürnberg* and *Dresden* dropped back. The British concentrated their fire on the *Scharnhorst*, Admiral von Spee's flagship. When it became evident that she was doomed, her crew assembled on the foreward deck. The *Scharnhorst* refused to surrender, and, after an hour's fighting, plunged beneath the waves. The crew preserved its formation as the ship went down, and cheered as the waters closed about them.

The *Glasgow* engaged the *Leipzig* and sank her. The *Goeben* went down eighty miles from Port Stanley. The *Nürnberg* attempted to escape, but after a pursuit of two hours was sunk. The *Carnarvon* pursued the *Dresden*, but was not swift enough to overhaul her.

After the battle, the British picked up 194 Germans, including a few officers. Of these, 100 were from the crews of the two German colliers. An opportunity to surrender was offered the colliers, but it was refused, and they were sunk.

The cruiser *Cornwall* was damaged slightly below the water line. None of the other British warships was damaged.

On December 16 funeral services were held by the squadron for the eight British sailors killed.

The British admiralty report of the battle stated that only seven men of the British squadron lost their lives.

IN NEW POSITIONS BETTER TO MEET NEXT ONSLAUGHTS

Another Big Battle Soon
May Be in Progress
in Poland.

WILL HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING ON NEXT STEP

Likely to Decide Whether Ger-
mans Are to Get to Warsaw or
Muscovites Invade Germany.

NO MARKED GAINS IN WEST

Apparent Allies Still on Offensive
From Coast to Labassee and
at Other Points.

Victory Over Russians Claimed by Germans

BERLIN is celebrating news from Poland of what is termed "one of the greatest victories in history." Berlin headquarters announced that the Russians have been clearly beaten, and that the Russian offensive against Silesia and Posen has been broken. A general retreat of the Russians in Poland, with the Germans in pursuit, is claimed.

In contradiction to this, the latest official communication in Petrograd declares that the Russian army and vanguard troops are "chaining energetically the beaten Germans" in the direction of Miava.

Both sides claim captures of prisoners, the Germans a large number.

From Warsaw comes word that a great battle is in progress, that the German wedge has established itself in a strategic position, and that desperate fighting is in progress, with reinforcements pouring into both Germans and Russians.

In Belgium and France the allies are carrying on offensive operations, which arrived at a steady state. Progress is noted in the French official statement, and it is believed infantry on the two sides of the western battle front have come to grips in many places, the number of wounded indicating the desperate nature of the struggle.

Further details from the English coast towns, which are being received by the British admiralty, disclose an increasing number of victims. At the two Hartlepoons alone the number is now officially announced at eighty-two, with 280 wounded. At Scarborough seventeen were killed, and it is thought the full casualty list has not yet been made out. One British light cruiser and a torpedo-boat were sunk, while among the Germans, lost five men killed and a number wounded.

That the German ships were hit several times by the English coast batteries is announced officially at Berlin, but it is asserted that the damage was slight.

Austria follows up the German announcement of a victory in Poland by the statement that the Russians are retreating along the whole front in both Galicia and Poland, and it is possible the decision may be the withdrawal of the invading forces of Russia from Przemyśl.

Egypt has been proclaimed a British protectorate, and Lieutenant Colonel Sir Arthur Henry McMahon has been appointed high commissioner.

LONDON, December 17 (10:50 P. M.)—"The Russians are retreating along the entire front in Galicia and Poland."

This statement, officially issued at Vienna, is the outstanding feature of to-night's news from the battle fronts.

While there is no confirmation from other sources, such a move on the part of the Russians would be in line with the announcements in Petrograd dispatches, that the Russians, threatened on both flanks, had decided to take up new positions, where they could better meet the Austro-German onslaughts from the Carpathians to the East Prussian frontier.

Should the Austro-German armies, as on previous occasions, follow the Russians in Poland, another big battle will soon be in progress, which may decide whether the Germans are to get to Warsaw, or whether the Russians are again to threaten an invasion of Germany.

The Russian delay in fulfilling expectations that they would prove a powerful factor in German territory, disappointing the peoples of the allied countries, but military men express the view that it is better for Russia to fight in her own territory, where means of communications would be more on an equality.

APPARENT THAT ALLIES STILL ON OFFENSIVE

The German and French official communications do not disclose much of what is going on in the west, but it is apparent that the allies are still on the offensive from the coast to Labassee and at other points. While no marked advances are reported, the French claim progress, and to have organized the ground they gained during the preceding days. The Germans, on the other hand, assert that the allies' attacks have been repulsed.

From the number of wounded reaching the hospitals of both the Germans and the allies, it is evident that the fighting in Flanders to-day was more severe than shown in the official statements. Correspondents report that the